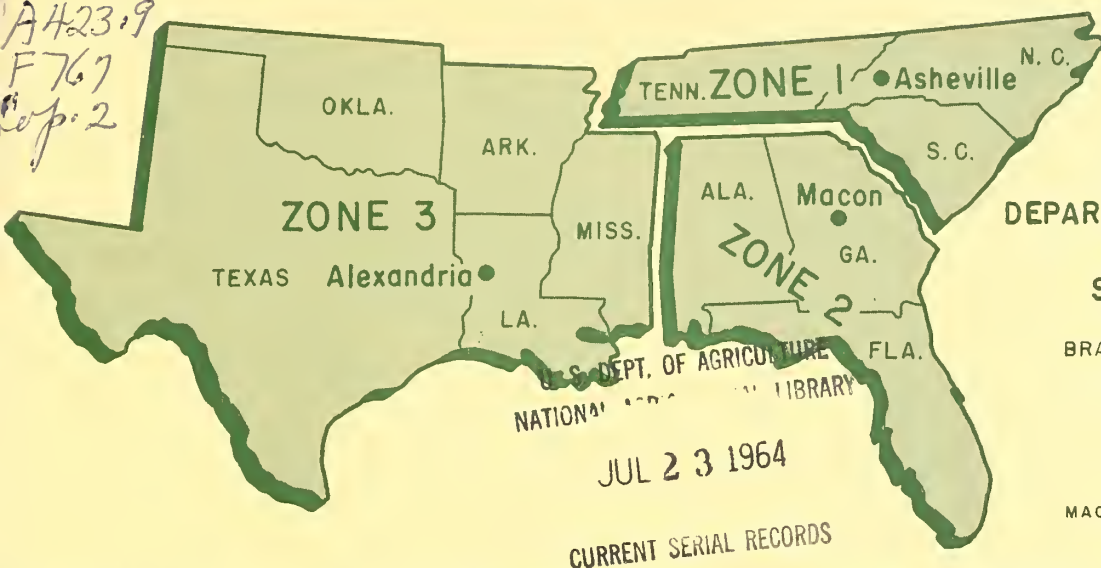


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SOUTHERN FOREST PEST REPORTER

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION

BRANCH OF FOREST INSECT
AND DISEASE CONTROL
FIELD OFFICES

ASHEVILLE, N.C.
MACON, GA. ALEXANDRIA, LA.

Number 1

50 SEVENTH ST. N.E. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323

April, 1964

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

- ... Southern pine beetle populations continue to decline over the South. Heavy losses are still occurring in some areas and a high potential for a general increase in activity still exists.
- ... Black turpentine beetle populations remain at a relatively low seasonal level with indications of some winter mortality.
- ... Ips beetle activity that increased during the late fall has declined during the winter in most areas.
- ... Pine reproduction weevil activity in coastal North Carolina is increasing with the coming of warmer weather.
- ... Fomes annosus and fusiform rust continue to pose problems particularly in pine plantations.
- ... Loblolly pine "die-off" continues to cause mortality and concern in central Alabama.



STATUS OF FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.

- ALABAMA Aerial surveys on the Shoal Creek and Talladega Districts of the National Forests in Alabama showed a decrease in number of infested trees from 6.2 per thousand acres in September 1963 to 1.1 in January 1964.
- Surveys on the Tuscaloosa and Oakmulgee Districts showed a slight increase in number of infested trees per thousand acres from 0.87 in November 1963 to 2.1 in January 1964. Other areas in Alabama appeared relatively free of beetle activity.
- GEORGIA The southern pine beetle outbreaks on the Chattooga and Tallulah Districts of the Chattahoochee National Forest are continuing at a reduced level. Brood production is high and a serious potential exists. Efforts are underway to treat all known infestations before spring emergence.
- Control operations on the Oconee National Forest have been suspended as populations of the southern pine beetle have been reduced to endemic levels.
- Statewide survey conducted by the Georgia Forestry Commission did not reveal any southern pine beetle activity. However, Ips activity was found to be concentrated in a few large spots. This was not considered to be of epidemic proportion.
- LOUISIANA An aerial evaluation survey in January showed activity of the beetle in Louisiana to be confined largely to the loblolly pine-hardwood type in the West Bay area of Allen Parish. Several infested trees were found southeast of any previously known infestations, indicating a slight increase in the size of the infested area.
- MISSISSIPPI The increase of southern pine beetle activity on the Homochitto National Forest last fall was largely confined to trees previously attacked by Ips spp. This spring an increasing number of primary attacks has been observed.
- Light infestations were found on trees previously attacked by Ips spp. in northwest Copiah County in February.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

- NORTH CAROLINA The southern pine beetle is active in several upper Piedmont counties in North Carolina. Beetle activity has increased in Davidson County since last fall. Organized salvage and chemical control efforts are being continued in this area by the North Carolina Division of Forestry. A few small, but vigorous, spots are present on the Tusquittee District of the National Forests in North Carolina. Broods appear to have survived the winter and present a potential threat for the coming season.
- SOUTH CAROLINA Southern pine beetle populations in the upper Piedmont Districts of the National Forests in South Carolina have decreased below a point where economic control is feasible. The most serious beetle activity is on the Francis Marion National Forest. An estimated 4000 trees are present in a two square mile area on the Wambaw District in Charleston County. Spots are currently restricted to low lying bays on the Wambaw and Witherbee Districts.
- TEXAS Southern pine beetle populations in southeast Texas are apparently at the lowest level in several years. Cooperative aerial surveys by the Texas Forest Service and the U. S. Forest Service show that the number of infested trees per thousand acres has declined from almost 9 in September 1963 to 0.31 in January 1964.
- Scattered activity was observed and reported from ground operations. Seven spots were located in Tyler County containing a total of 34 trees. All infestations were controlled. (Texas Forest Service)
- Southern pine beetle activity continues at a low level on the Big Thicket District of the Sam Houston National Forest.

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus terebrans (Olivier)

- ALABAMA Winter mortality of black turpentine beetle was observed in many spots during January on the Shoal Creek and Talladega Ranger Districts in Cleburne, Calhoun, Clay and Talladega Counties.
- LOUISIANA Increased black turpentine beetle activity is reported on the Vernon District of the Kisatchie National Forest. Beetle attacks were found on a low site that had not been logged for several years.

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

- TENNESSEE Black turpentine beetle was responsible for scattered mortality of residual trees on recent timber sales on the Cherokee National Forest.
- TEXAS Heavy damage by the black turpentine beetle was reported from southern Houston County on an area of approximately 500 acres. Areas logged during the last few months contained the heaviest concentrations of attacks. Control action was initiated. (Texas Forest Service)

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLES

- ALABAMA Ips activity as determined by aerial surveys in January over National Forest land in Cleburne, Calhoun, Clay, Talladega, Winston, Franklin and Lawrence Counties, Alabama revealed approximately 8 Ips killed trees per 1000 acres. This represents an 8 fold increase since September 1963.
- ARKANSAS Ips beetles, particularly Ips avulsus, reached epidemic proportions in the pine-production areas of the State last fall. Due to the higher than normal population levels, trees already weakened by beetle attack, drought conditions, and burns, the potential for an outbreak situation this spring is great.
- The hazard condition is not uniform over the State but includes forests in all the pine-production areas; namely, Ashley, Drew, Union, Scott, Stone, Cleveland, Dallas, Yell, Montgomery, and other counties. If moisture conditions continue to remain below normal, we can expect a new surge of activity in May. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report)
- MISSISSIPPI Ips activity on the Homochitto National Forest has declined due to improved moisture conditions.
- NORTH CAROLINA Spots of up to 15 trees infested with Ips avulsus (Eichh.) were observed in the Morrow Mountain State Park.
- SOUTH CAROLINA On the upper Piedmont Districts of the National Forests in South Carolina, Ips are replacing southern pine beetle as a primary causal agent of tree mortality.

IPS (Cont'd)

NORTH CAROLINA & TENNESSEE The pine engraver, Ips pini (Say), was found infesting white pine in the vicinities of Hot Springs and Asheville, North Carolina, and Tellico Plains, Tennessee, by W. M. Ciesla.

PINE REPRODUCTION WEEVILS

ARKANSAS Weevil activity is increasing. Collections from beetle traps show pales weevil to be the predominant species. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report)

NORTH CAROLINA The first emergence of pales weevil, Hylobius pales (Hbst.) and the pitch eating weevil, Pachylobius picivorus (Germ.) occurred on March 5 in eastern North Carolina.

A recent evaluation of a newly established plantation in eastern North Carolina showed that the number of injured seedlings ranged from 4 to 8 percent on sites that were cleared in October 1963 and planted in January and February 1964. Injury was confined to sites that had previously supported pine stands.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

GEORGIA & NORTH CAROLINA Egg mass surveys indicate a low population level of the elm spanworm, Ennomos subsignarius (Hbn.), in north Georgia and western North Carolina. Only light to moderate defoliation is expected.

SOUTH CAROLINA Dioryctria clarioralis (Wlk.) was responsible for the loss of some 50 percent of the longleaf pine cone crop on a 55 acre seed production area on the Francis Marion National Forest.

NORTH CAROLINA Bagworms, Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis, have caused heavy defoliation of a five acre white pine plantation in Buncombe County.

STATUS OF FOREST DISEASES

FOMES ANNOSUS ROOT ROT, Fomes annosus (Fr.) Cke.

REGION-WIDE Annosus root rot is one of the major forest diseases in the Region. Infections have been found on private land in Limestone,

FOMES ANNOSUS ROOT ROT (Cont'd)

Madison, Jackson, and Lauderdale Counties in north Alabama, and on the Bankhead and Tuskegee National Forests. It was also reported from Crawford and Saline Counties. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report)

Severe damage was observed in a thinned natural white pine stand in Watauga County, North Carolina. For the most part, known infections occur in thinned pine stands. It is safe to assume that annosus root rot occurs to some extent in most of the pine-producing areas of the Region.

FUSIFORM RUST, Cronartium fusiforme (A. & K.) Hedgc. & Hunt

Fusiform rust is the number one disease of slash and loblolly pine in the South. It attacks trees of all ages; killing seedlings and disfiguring and weakening stems of larger trees. The spindle shaped cankers are easy to detect during March and April because they are producing powder-like, orange-yellow aeciospores.

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST, Cronartium ribicola Fischer

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| NORTH CAROLINA | During 1963, the North Carolina Division of Forestry reported 9 new white pine blister rust infection locations in Avery, Ashe, and Watauga Counties, North Carolina. |
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LOBLOLLY PINE DIE-OFF (Cause Unknown)

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| ALABAMA | Loblolly pine die-off continues to cause mortality in areas of central Alabama. This condition has been centered on the Oakmulgee and Tuscaloosa Ranger Districts of the Talladega National Forest and adjacent private lands. A similar condition has been reported on the Bankhead Ranger District of the Bankhead National Forest. |
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MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

Hypoderma lethale Dearn. is prevalent on pines in areas of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Pitch canker caused by Fusarium lateritium f. pini Hepting was observed on Virginia pine on the Cherokee Division, Cherokee National Forest. Many superficial cankers on white pine caused by Caliciopsis pinea Peck have been observed in the white pine-producing areas of North Carolina and Tennessee.

More detailed information can be obtained by writing to the Forest Insect and Disease Control Branch Zone Offices listed below or to the Atlanta office:

ZONES

FOR STATES OF:

Zone 1
Rudolph T. Franklin
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P. O. Box 1211
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North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee

Zone 2
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Zone Leader
P. O. Box 1077
Macon, Georgia

Alabama
Florida
Georgia

Zone 3
David E. Ketcham
Zone Leader
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Arkansas
Louisiana
Mississippi
Oklahoma
Texas



